SPECIAL CHAPTER 9

WELCOME, MEL!
CLICK
SHUT
squeak
Today we came to Marie's house.
THANK YOU.

SFX: GLOOM

What's the matter..?

MASTER HAD A DEADLINE FOR WORK, SO SHE DIDN'T SLEEP LAST NIGHT.

I TOLD HER I COULD COME ALONE, BUT SHE SAID SHE WAS WORRIED...

MASTER, ARE YOU FEELING OKAY...?

sway

sway

Mn...

IT'S NO PROBLEM.

I'm just tired.

WELL...

mumble

I WANTED TO SEE STELLA AGAIN TOO...

?

fu

fu

THIS WAY.
nod
nod
SFX: CLICK
Woah...
THIS IS MASTER'S ATELIER.
OH,
WELCOME, BOTH OF YOU.
I apologize for staying seated
STELLA-SAN, THANK YOU FOR HAVING US.
I'M GLAD YOU CAME.

CLACK
... YOU ARE STILL DRAWING?
YES.
CLACK
THAT... SCAR ON YOUR RIGHT HAND,
THERE ARE NO AFTER-EFFECTS?
It doesn't hurt to draw?
Ahaha
NO, NOT AT ALL.
... I SEE.
THEN THAT'S GOOD.
WELL THEN, WHY DON'T YOU GO AHEAD AND GET READY, MARIE.
OKAY.
THIS WAY, MEL.
eh!?
eeh!!?
eeeeh!!

Hyaa!!
MARIE, WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
YOU SUDDENLY TOOK OFF MY CLOTHES...
Hmm, let's see..
Which do you think is better?
Okay
PUT THIS ON.
Hey
DID YOU HEAR ME...?
ONCE YOU'RE CHANGED, YOUR HAIR'S NEXT.
Excuse me

HEY, MARIE, WHAT ARE YOU-
HEY MEL, BE STILL!
STARTLE
SFX: FUFUFUFUFU
YOU TWO
ARE SO CUTE!!!
SHINE

THAT POSE IS FINE.
IF YOU GET UNCOMFORTABLE, GO AHEAD AND MOVE FREELY.
Okay.
Stella-san..?
I'M SIMPLY USING YOUNG BODIES IN THE MIDST OF TRANSFORMATION AS A MOTIF TO CAPTURE THE PURITY THAT GIRLS HOLD...
grumpy grumpy grumpy grumpy grumpy grumpy grumpy grumpy
How's that any different from what I said?
MASTER LOVES LITTLE GIRLS.
Isn't she weird?
I'm always modelling for her.
MARIE... IF YOU SAY IT LIKE THAT, MEL-CHAN WILL GET THE WRONG IDEA.
This brings me back...
YOU USED TO MODEL FOR ME LIKE THIS.
NOD
NOD

... OKAY.
SLEEP DEPREVATION IS BAD FOR YOU.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT THE TIME, GO TO SLEEP. IT'S FINE EVEN IF YOU SPEND THE NIGHT.
MARIE, SHOW HER TO A BED-ROOM.
OKAY.
Sheesh...
SHE'S STILL GOING TO EXTREMES.
CHUCKLE
Did you hurt it?
UMM... YOUR RIGHT HAND...
?
What is it?
Oh
OH, YOU NOTICED THIS.

THIS SCAR IS A PRECIOUS MEMORY.
A MEMORY...?
WHEN WE WERE LITTLE,
MY LEG SUDDENLY BEGAN TO ACHE SO YOUR MASTER CARRIED ME ON HER BACK.
WELL, SHE WAS JUST A CHILD, SO SURE ENOUGH, SHE FELL
AND THAT'S WHEN I INJURED MY HAND.
WOBBLE
thump
Wah
With stitches, even though it wasn't going to leave a big scar...
STELLA'S HAND WILL HEAL PROPERLY, RIGHT!?
SHE'LL BE ABLE TO DRAW?
IF SHE CAN'T HOLD A PENCIL... IT'LL BE MY FAULT.
IT'S FINE, THE DOCTOR TOOK CARE OF HER.

I'M SORRY, STELLA.
DRIP
I'M SORRY...
DRIP
That scar on your right hand, there are no after-effects?
SHE'S STILL WORRIED ABOUT IT.
fu
GRIN
fu
fu
Her face when she said that... IT'S JUST SO CUTE HOW AWKWARD SHE IS!
......
SHINE
Ahh, I can't bear it!
STELLA-SAN, YOU KNOW A LOT ABOUT MASTER THAT I DON'T.

WELL, SHE'S MY OLD FRIEND.
DROP
AND BECAUSE OF THAT, I'M CURIOUS ABOUT HOW DIFFERENT HER PERSONALITY AND EXPRESSIONS ARE COMPARED TO BACK THEN
THAT MUST'VE BEEN THE CAUSE

SFX GASP
"THAT" ..?
NO, I
PLEASE TELL ME!
I..
I WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT MASTER, EVEN IF IT'S JUST A LITTLE MORE!

THEN HOW ABOUT I TELL YOU AN OLD STORY I KNOW, FOR A JUST A LITTLE BIT

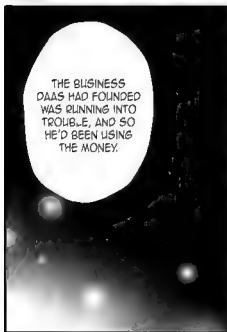
She was orphaned soon after she was born, and was placed in an orphanage.

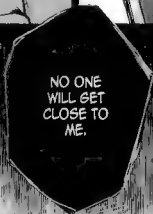
One day, both her parents died in an accident.

She inherited a large fortune, and her relatives attacked her.

Throughout all this,

her uncle Daas was the only one on her side.

SHE WAS STILL YOUNG, AND PUT ALL OF HER PROPERTY INTO HER UNCLE'S CONTROL.
AND THEN, ABOUT TWO YEARS LATER,
IT CAME TO LIGHT THAT HE HAD BEEN EMBEZZLING HER INHERITANCE
HE WAS USING IT FOR HIMSELF?
YES ONLY ABOUT 1/3 OF THE ORIGINAL AMOUNT WAS LEFT
THE BUSINESS DAAS HAD FOUNDED WAS RUNNING INTO TROUBLE, AND SO HE'D BEEN USING THE MONEY.

It was quite a shock to have been betrayed by the one relative she trusted.
After discovering this, she stopped leaving the manor.
I wanted to be by her side,
but this was happening just as I was preparing for my surgery and moving.
I'M SORRY, STELLA-SAMA,
THE MASTER SAID SHE DOESN'T WANT TO MEET WITH ANYONE
When I went to say goodbye, she wouldn't see me.
That manor, with all the staff let go aside from a single maid, was quieter than ever.
MASTER.. STELLA-SAMA CAME ALL THIS WAY TO SEE YOU..
I DON'T CARE!
LEAVE ME ALONE!!

I DON'T TRUST PEOPLE...
I... I HATE THEM ALL.
NO ONE WILL GET CLOSE TO ME.

I'M TURNING OFF THE LIGHT
. OKAY
dark
THIS REMINDS OF BACK AT THE HOME.
MEL, YOU OFTEN ASKED TO SLEEP TOGETHER WHEN THERE WAS LIGHTING, REMEMBER?
YEAH..
HEY, YOUR MASTER WAS REALLY TIRED.
SHE FELL RIGHT ASLEEP.
Thanks to that, you got to stay over I'm glad

BUT THAT SURPRISED ME
THAT YOUR MASTER AND MY MASTER
WERE FRIENDS.
YEAH..
WHAT'S WRONG? DID SOMETHING HAPPEN?
You seem distracted
Ah
Sorry, I'M WORRIED ABOUT SOMETHING
WOR-RIED?
.. I WISH I KNEW WHAT SHE DID.
I REALIZED TODAY I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING. ABOUT MY MASTER.
BUT STELLA-SAN KNOWS SO MUCH ABOUT HER..

SFX CLENCH

MEL, DOESN'T THAT MEAN
YOU'RE JEALOUS?
JEA-LOUS?
MEL, YOU LIKE YOUR MASTER, RIGHT?
YES, I LIKE HER
SHE'S KIND,
I FEEL WARM WHEN I'M WITH HER,
AND HER SCENT IS CALMING

... BUT,
RECENTLY, WHEN I'M WITH HER,
I FEEL A TIGHTNESS HERE, AND IT HURTS.
AM I... STRANGE?
MEL, YOU'RE NOT STRANGE.
THEN WHY IS THIS HAPPENING?
THAT'S BECAUSE

WHAT YOU FEEL FOR YOUR MASTER IS A SPECIAL KIND OF LIKE.

A SPECIAL. .
LIKE?
YES.
DO YOU LIKE ME, MEL?
YES, I LIKE YOU. YOU'RE MY FRIEND.
SO BETWEEN THE WAY YOU LIKE ME AND THE WAY YOU LIKE YOUR MASTER,
WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?
Uh
THAT'S HARD. I DON'T UNDERSTAND...
THAT'S OKAY. SOMEDAY YOU'LL UNDERSTAND.
YOU JUST HAVEN'T REALIZED YET.

WELL, THAT'S BECAUSE I HAVE ONE TOO. SOMEONE SPECIAL.

EH?

HEY, WHO IS IT..

SIT UP

OKAY, LET'S GO TO SLEEP!

TOMORROW'S BREAKFAST IS PANCAKES COVERED IN HONEY

Our cooks food is

HEY, MARIE, COME ON~

CHIRP
CHIRP
SORRY FOR BEING A NUISANCE AND STAYING THE NIGHT
IT WAS FUN
Right, Marie?
MEL-CHAN, MEL-CHAN,
whisper
FROM NOW ON, TAKE CARE OF HER FOR ME
I WASN'T ABLE TO BE AT HER SIDE WHEN SHE WAS SUFFERING THE MOST.
BUT NOW THAT SHE HAS YOU, MEL-CHAN, I FEEL AT EASE.

WHAT ARE YOU TWO TALKING ABOUT?
THAT'S A SECRET~
Right, Mei-chan?
YOU TOLD ME BEFORE,
THAT YOU'D CHANGED.
BUT YOU HAVEN'T CHANGED AT ALL.
SSSHHAAA
YOUR FACE IS SCARIER,
BUT YOU'RE JUST AS KIND AS BEFORE.

PLEASE COME AGAIN! I'LL HAVE PLENTY OF OUTFITS PREPARED FOR MARIE AND MEL-CHAN♡
Please let me draw her again
I'm looking forward to it
Master...
DROOL
YES. SEE YOU AGAIN.
SEE YOU MEL!
SFX: SHUT

STELLA-SAN TOLD ME A STORY FROM YOUR PAST.
VRRRM
WHA! WHAT'D SHE SAY!?
CLUNK
WAS IT WHAT WE TALKED ABOUT BEFORE?
CLUNK
NOD
NOD
ahem
... SHEESH. WHEN I SEE HER FACE,
I REMEMBER THINGS FROM MY PAST AND GET EMBAR-RASSED.

AUGUST 31ST,
SUNNY
THE DAY AFTER A DEADLINE,
WE WENT TO STELLA'S HOUSE.
I FOUND MYSELF NODDING OFF,
SO SHE LET US SPEND THE NIGHT.
SHE DREW A PICTURE OF MEL.
AT SOME POINT, I'LL BUY IT.
I BORROWED A CHANGE OF
CLOTHES, SO I'LL RETURN THEM
NEXT TIME AFTER THEY'RE CLEANED.
Isn't this too frilly...?
It suit you.

CHAOSTEAM CREDITS
TRANSLATION:
SCHUYGUY
TYPESETTING:
HIME AIHARA
CLEANING:
SHINIGAMI SOUMIASAN
RAWS:
CY DUP
QC:
BUDING THE
GRUMPY HEDGEHOG